

L3 - 53749

L11 - 23474

**caliber**  
HARGREVE/BALAZS P98-99  
**COMPOSITION BOOK**  
MORE LANIAKEA  
JEFF CORWIN 1/26<sup>27</sup>/2012 P. 102  
RICE/BALAZS 2/29 - 3/3/2012 P. 104  
8/26/2012 <sup>MR</sup> QIN CHUANXIN

GEORGE H. BALAZS

2 of 3

College Ruled  
100 Sheets

9.75 in x 7.5 in (24.8 cm x 19 cm)

94

# LIVE TURTLE EXAMINATION RECORD

Date: 5-12-10  
Turtle ID: N. Shore  
Comments: floating in river -  
63.4cm 69.5lbs

CoPt

## PHYSICAL EXAM

Head and neck: normal

Mouth: normal

Eyes: normal

Front flippers: normal

Shell: normal

Plastron: normal / maybe a little flat

Rear flippers: R rear flipper missing  
distal to mid radius + ulna - head of femur  
very old injury

Tail: normal

BODY CONDITION: good

## SAMPLES TAKEN

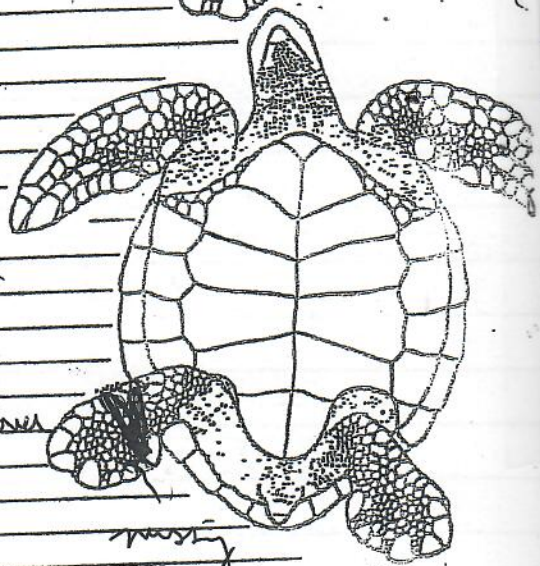
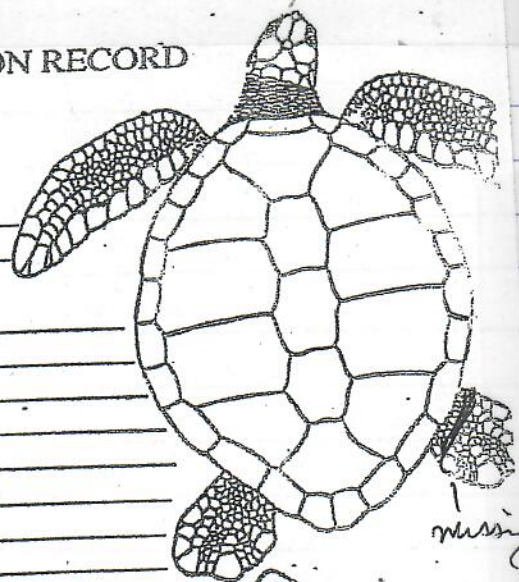
PCV 34, T.P. 4.1  
CBC  Chemistries \_\_\_\_\_  
Others X-ray - CRD

## APPROXIMATE TUMOR SIZE CATEGORIES:

- #1 = DETECTABLE PATCH TO 1CM DIAMETER
- #2 = >1CM TO 4CM
- #3 = >4CM TO 10CM
- #4 = >10CM

RECOMMENDATIONS: X-ray - gas & fecal material  
through ST area - not holes or primary impaled  
areas noted - see treatment sheet

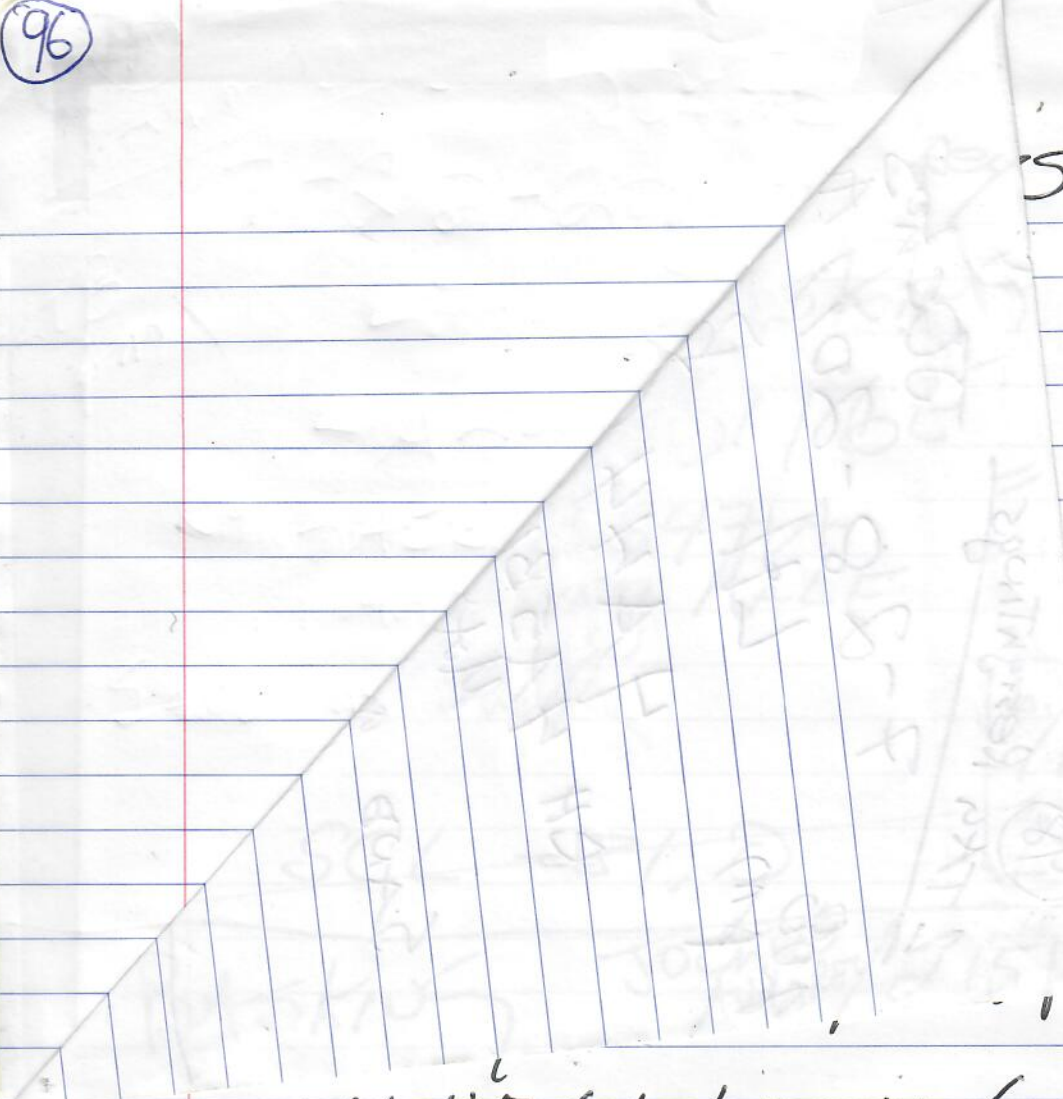
Signed: Robert A. Morris



CLINICAL TURTLE RECORD

TURTLE I.D. NORTH SHORE (5/11)-10

DATE	
5-12-10	<p>♂ - floating turtle in river - unable to dive</p> <p>0 placed in tank - stayed out to left - floats!</p> <p>X-ray - gas &amp; fecal material in air tract</p> <p>seeds to be located on right side -</p> <p>CBC - 5,200</p> <p>TP 5.5 - elevated</p> <p>Reversal of lymphocyte/heterophil ratio</p> <p>A - cat. phagocytosis</p> <p>infection/gas</p> <p>inflammation - infection?</p> <p>No external tumors</p> <p>P: 2-150 mg Demethicon PO for gas</p> <p>90 cc mineral oil for inflation</p> <p>Re ✓ 2 days &amp; no heat</p> <p>Progress guarded - long time recovery (months) <del>may</del></p> <p>in river - <i>R</i></p>
5-14	<p>Re ✓ at KAWAHO</p> <p>Decision to stand on A/B based on T protein level and reversal of lymph/hetero ratio</p> <p>stand on 150 mg amoxicillin</p> <p>Repeat 5-17 &amp; 5-20 -</p> <p>turtle floating w/ left tilt</p> <p>multiple <del>of</del> <del>gas</del> hard fibrous dark colored in tank 1-2 cm</p> <p>small amt fecal material contents very soft</p> <p>if 60 cc mineral oil PO</p> <p>ingest in</p> <p>female fed 1 squid <i>R</i></p>



L23

HARGROVE  
Petigrew  
Balazs

m

LH 47φ Aφ 3141φ

SCL 77.5

47φ B374A6C

By HARGROVE  
Petigrew &  
BALAZS

98

2 TKU Resightings

Jochos

7-28-2011 Audrey's

2:08 PM

LH BASKING

4A4463116E = L23

RH 4A5B1B347A  
Maturing MALE

SAND on shell

By HARGROVE  
Petigrew  
and BALAZS

SCL - 81.0

BASKING Jochos  
Audrey's 2:15 PM

LH 47φAφ3141φ

SCL 77.5

47φB374A6C

By HARGROVE  
Petigrew &  
BALAZS

Joan Airdem

NOT FOR  
TOPS

99

Red Rose Tea

Safeway

7/28/2011

2:35 pm

LANIAKEA  
BASKING

SOL 81.3 am

MARRING WAVE = L6

LH 433F397534

RH 433D49066

Volunteer

Lexie Hopley

2003  
73.3

Date: Sun, 6 Nov 2011 20:23:15 -1000  
From: Amber Fong <chialingfong@gmail.com>  
To: gbalazs <gbalazs@honlab.nmfs.hawaii.edu>  
Subject: Basking turtle

Sunday  
11-6-11

Aloha Balazs,  
Thank you very much for calling those male turtles to show up for us!  
It's a wonderful day! The turtle information is below,  
The pictures of hard working Mr. Balazs are in the attachments.

LANIAKEA L1

L1  
SCL: 85.5cm  
PIT tag no:  
L/ missing flipper  
R/ 500E072F73

Sunday  
11-6-2011

L4  
SCL: 87.1cm  
PIT tag no:  
L/ 435C272550  
R/ 435B6A124B

HALEIWA BEACH PARK ALII

1st Male (the left one face to land)  
PIT tag no:  
L/ 4A2D37184E

2nd MALE (the right one when face to land)  
PIT tag no:  
L/ 483C262B17

Good night and good working days next week!

Amber

102

Revised 01/22/08

NOAA Fisheries  
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center  
Marine Turtle Research Program  
2570 Dole Street  
Honolulu, HI 96822-2396

Previously  
L-27  
Designated

DATE FORM FILLED OUT

SEA TURTLE TAGGING FORM

CAPTURE DATE, LOCATION AND METHOD:

1/27/2012  
3 PM BASKING

JEFF CORWIN  
ANIMAL PLANET  
FILMING  
BASKING

PERSON RECORDING DATA:

BALEBY  
48533C7B23

TUMOR SCORE

0

ORAL TMRS EXT:  
YES OR NO

NO

EMACIATION CODE

0

MT#

OLD TAGS  
48533C7B23

NEW TAGS:

48515A5A69

RHF:

AAR:

STRAIGHT CARAPACE - LENGTH:  
CURVED

92.4 cm

WIDTH:

NOTCH LENGTH:

DB: 0 L.O.

VB: 0 L.O.

CURVED CARAPACE LENGTH:  
STRAIGHT

87.4 cm

WIDTH: — cm

HEAD WIDTH: — cm

LATERAL1: — cm

LATERAL2: — cm

PPS: YES OR NO OR NE —

LATERAL3: — cm

SEX: Male, Female or Undetermined

TAIL LENGTH: T — cm

C — cm

SPECIES: CM

RIGHT FRONT FLIPPER WIDTH: — cm

SAMPLES COLLECTED:

PLASTRON LENGTH: — cm

WEIGHT: — #

DESCRIPTIVE REMARKS:

Speckles of  
CORALLINE ALGAE  
(CA)  
on CARAPACE

NOTE This Turtle was brought in for hook  
REMOVAL from neck in 2010. Not Tagged  
fieldwork/tagging.xls



104

# Audrey's Apartment

2/29/2012 Arrived LANIAKEA

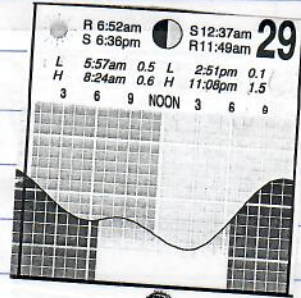
Wednesday ~ 4 pm

no turtles out  
Volunteer reported L3

went back at 3 pm.

Marc Arrived ~ 6 pm with

GMC Enterprise pickup  
Rental.

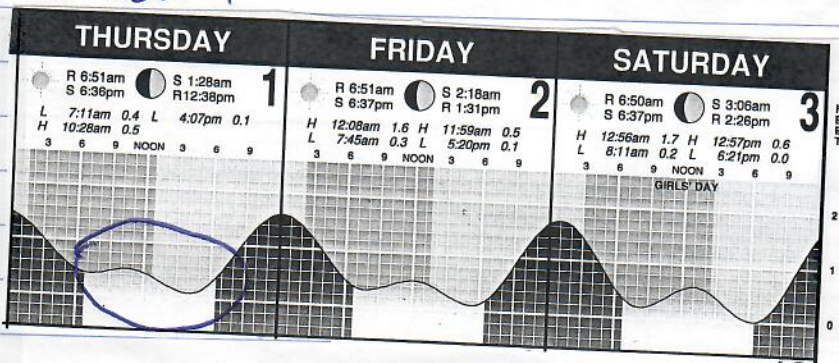


wed

350 Dinner at Cholo's Mexican  
Picked up large carrier at

Joselyn  
Joanne-Lethige

March



From  
Tina  
Seminara

GEORGE BALAZS

HYPOTHESES

LOPEZ = Method  
SLOAN 2004  
blpba serum

3/1/2012  
Thursday

1130 L6 (Costley) CA speckles  
to BASK LANIAKEA  
Returned 1145am - significant lengthened

(105)  
TO P.116

Jocko's (Audrey's Cove)  
2/29/2012 ~ 9:30 pm 2 turtle backing

orig. mostly Tagged  
3/4/10  
84.5 SCL  
Adult Male LHM 470B4F5F66  
NO SCL Taken  
w/ Adult female NO PIT Tags

Date: Wed, 29 Feb 2012 16:00:24 -0500 (EST)  
From: Laniakeal@aol.com  
To: gbalazs@honlab.nmfs.hawaii.edu  
Subject: Hi George

Hi George,

Thank you for your voicemail yesterday. I was out at Coconut Island.. only saw 1 turtle on the boat ride over.

I'll be home most the day today, working on the March volunteer schedule. I'll pull the animal carrier out, in case you need it.

L-3 was up early at Laniakea this morning. I suspect she spent the night. She's a fairly infrequent basker (~10%) and may be a good tagging candidate. (You might remember she "snuck off" to the FFS in 2008, when we were all so distracted by L-18!)

Talk to you soon.  
Aloha,  
Joanne

3/1/2012 <sup>30AM</sup> Thursday L1 out to Bask. L24  
Laniakea

3/2 L4 , L1 ,  
Box STILL ON

Brought to Audrey's into shade in pickup truck  
New GMC Red w/HP was  
106 miles

LAST Nesting  
at FFS East Boston  
Summer  
2008

Revised 01/22/08

NOAA Fisheries  
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center  
Marine Turtle Research Program  
2570 Dole Street  
Honolulu, HI 96822-2396

(L3)  
TAM 2639

SEA TURTLE TAGGING FORM

DATE FORM FILLED OUT 3/1/12 Thursday

CAPTURE DATE, LOCATION AND METHOD: hand capture on beach  
Basking - Laniakea - 1330h for satellite tag attachment

PERSON RECORDING DATA: Rice

TUMOR SCORE

ORAL TMRS EXT:  
YES OR NO

EMACIATION CODE

OLD TAGS:

4347619B2D

4358740927

NEW TAGS:

RHF Tel 633629

LHF ARGOS ID

53749

6/24 duty cycle

STRAIGHT CARAPACE - LENGTH: 87.8 cm

WIDTH:  cm

NOTCH LENGTH:  cm

DB: 0 L.O.

VB: 0 L.O.

CURVED CARAPACE LENGTH: 96.0 cm

WIDTH: 85.5 cm

HEAD WIDTH:  cm

LATERAL1:  cm

LATERAL2:  cm

PPS: YES OR NO OR NE

LATERAL3:  cm

SEX: Male, Female or Undetermined (F)

TAIL LENGTH: T  cm

C  cm

SPECIES: CM

RIGHT FRONT FLIPPER WIDTH:  cm

SAMPLES COLLECTED:

PLASTRON LENGTH:  cm

WEIGHT: 239.3 #

DESCRIPTIVE REMARKS:

MK9 mounted immediately Behind TAM #  
MK9 # 1090163 - started ~ 1400h 3/1/12 HST

~~1/13/12 1/13/12~~

TURTLE  
Released ~ 17:09  
Magnet Reset

July 16, 2012 TAM 2639 +  
Removal

xeroxed  
taped

IN  
LANIAKEA  
BOOK

L ANIAKEA + hook

90 lb CONTAINER (H)

7/16/2012 MONDAY

TO LANIAKEA  
Sunday 7/15/12 PM

MRICE & GBALAZS LANIAKEA

~ 130 pm L26 male & L6 oakley

BASTING = L7 Male male

IN search of ♀ L3 & L11 (Returned from  
off Mokulea but never went to VFS) FFS  
Early July

L3 w/TAM 2639 & MK9  
Seen foraging - Rocks on the  
Right. ~ 3 pm started to haul out

but then went back in.

Local  
Military?

Someone's backpack stole from beach.

~ 330 pm L3 came out - lots of "clumping"  
on the right front flipper.

Fishhook seen extreme ventral right shoulder  
with orange rubber band by eye of hook.

TAM & MK9 easily taken off - hatch saw  
blade alone, and in regular hatch by GB.

Underneath scutes etc. Look great,  
Saltwater switches green with corrosion

(made of COPPER). TAGS ID CODE =  
53749

Turtle tuned over in box to examine  
hook embedded to eye, small incision

w/ Scape at hook pierce site. Used small  
needle pose to wiggle & cut along SHANK - came out

no bleeding. L3 then released.

HAWAII ~ 9 years old

hook →

108

F. P. 840 057 4105 31 05 04



SEA TURTLE TAGGING FORM

DATE FORM FILLED OUT 3 11 12

CAPTURE DATE, LOCATION AND METHOD: *Audrey's Cove / Jockos*

*Line entanglement - RFL - Amputee.*  
PERSON RECORDING DATA: *Rice -*

TUMOR SCORE <input type="text" value="0"/>	OLD TAGS: <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	NEW TAGS: RHF <input type="text" value="4A40170774"/> LHF <input type="text" value="4B19394A28"/>
ORAL TMRS EXT: YES OR NO <input type="text" value="1"/>		
EMACIATION CODE <input type="text" value="0"/>	MT# <input type="text"/>	

STRAIGHT CARAPACE - LENGTH:  cm      WIDTH:  cm

NOTCH LENGTH:  cm      DB:  L.O.      VB:  L.O.

CURVED CARAPACE LENGTH:  cm      WIDTH:  cm

HEAD WIDTH:  cm      LATERAL1:  cm      LATERAL2:  cm

PPS: YES OR NO OR NE       LATERAL3:  cm      SEX: Male, Female or Undetermined

TAIL LENGTH: T  cm      C  cm      SPECIES:

RIGHT FRONT FLIPPER WIDTH:  cm      SAMPLES COLLECTED:

PLASTRON LENGTH:  cm

WEIGHT:  #

*FLIPPER DISCARDED*

DESCRIPTIVE REMARKS: *Right FH strangled by fishing line and nearly off. After cooling the remaining small strips of flesh still holding RFL on, the tissue was sliced & the flipper fell free. Only a little blood loss.  
Turtle released at 1620 & it swam away.*

110

Released 1714h

Revised 01/22/08

NOAA Fisheries  
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center  
Marine Turtle Research Program  
2570 Dole Street  
Honolulu, HI 96822-2396

Laniakea

L11

Attached  
in line with TAM 44  
MK 9

SEA TURTLE TAGGING FORM

DATE FORM FILLED OUT 3/2/12

1090164

CAPTURE DATE, LOCATION AND METHOD:

Basking 3-2-12 LANIAKEA  
PERSON RECORDING DATA: THURSDAY

TUMOR SCORE

0

OLD TAGS:

LH 442E084F24

NEW TAGS:

RHF 722646187

ORAL TMRS EXT:  
YES OR NO

—

RH 4250034951

LHF ARGOS I.D.

23474

EMACIATION CODE

0

MT#

TAM 4410

STRAIGHT CARAPACE - LENGTH:

80.3 cm

23rd centron  
1" LK  
rest on Marginals

WIDTH: — cm

NOTCH LENGTH: — cm

DB: 9 L.O.

VB: NT L.O.  
observed

CURVED CARAPACE LENGTH:

86.0 cm

WIDTH: — cm

HEAD WIDTH: — cm

LATERAL1: — cm

LATERAL2: — cm

PPS: YES OR NO OR NE —

LATERAL3: — cm

SEX: Male, Female or Undetermined M

TAIL LENGTH: T full side male

— cm

SPECIES: CM

RIGHT FRONT FLIPPER WIDTH: — cm

SAMPLES COLLECTED:

PLASTRON LENGTH: — cm

WEIGHT: 186.5 #

195.5  
19  
186.5

1511 1st coat on

final coat 1546

DESCRIPTIVE REMARKS:

"BARNACLE LOAD LIFTING"

3-2-2012 L11





112



3-2-12 L11



3-2-12, L11



116 from 105

Laniakea

1/2012  
Thursday

1245 pm

LI UP

1250 pm

L28 & 211

1255 pm L16  
Returned ♀

100 pm L3 UP

1307h - Brutus - L1

LH - 41356C4857

RH - 5008072F73

SCL = 85.4 cm

L28

110 pm SCL = 78.0

New

4A40390F19



L3 Sapphire - 1320 h.

~~RH~~ SCL = 87.8 cm

LH = 434769182D

RH ~~SCL~~ = 4358740927

Put into Box (carrier) 1330 h.

See p. 106 Sat Tag + MK9 TDR Attachment

LANIAKEA<sup>out</sup> TO 1140 AM - LI BRUTUS up to BASK  
BASK 1130 AM L4 OLIVIA - DAWN

3/1/12 Lanika Beach  
Thursday

1715<sup>th</sup> Kuhina L24 - Adult Male

LH = 470AIA1211

SCL = 91.4 cm

717<sup>th</sup> Oakley L6 - Mei Aloha - P.C.A

LH = 433F3797534

RH = 433D493D66

SCL = 80.9 cm

IN 2003 <sup>SCL</sup> 73.3

Maturing male - TAIL considerably lengthened.

830pm 3/1/12 L24 still basking at Lanika Beach.

845pm Audrey's Cove 4 BASKERS.

Center - 2 large close together, 1 juvenile, 1 subadult far right.

MARCH 2, 2012 FRIDAY

SCL 89.7cm STRANDINGS ESTANGLE  
4/2000 CHIPS

1148 AM Audrey's (Jocko's)

♀ → 88.7 <sup>STILL THERE</sup> LH 410B632320  
<sub>BASK 633 PM</sub> RH 410C161007

♀(?) 75.0 LH 407A0C6608

<sub>70</sub> RH 470C393764

2/09 BASKING Sutherland's SCL 60.7

118

Andrey's Cove (Jochos)

MARCH 2, 2012 Friday

6:35pm MALE RH 4~~7~~7 $\phi$ A $\phi$ F3448  
SCL

Bask

83.9 cm

LH 47 $\phi$ A133146

4 PM BASKING MT -212 4T

lateral Right  
Adult female

(PIT TAGS not Read)

Bask MARCH 3 2012 SATURDAY  
Andrey 10:30 AM

MALE SCL 92.2 cm

RH



4B19216141

LH

4B1A4E3F63



Bask

MALE 84.0 cm SCL

LH 47 $\phi$ A133146

RH 4<sup>7</sup> $\phi$ A $\phi$ F3448

Formerly "Sea View Inn & <sup>Chart</sup> House",  
3-3-2012 Lunch Halewa JOES



120

LADIAKEA



July 16, 2012



Rem  
The 3000 2000 1000 0

MARCH 5, 2010 See p. 67

(157)







MARCH 5, 2010

See P67



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### KOKUA LINE

*Page 2*  
*HSB 7-13-05*  
June Watanabe

## North Shore winter is ticket season

**Question:** On Oahu's North Shore, at Laniakea Beach, 10 or more commercial tour buses, vans and limos routinely park in the clearly posted "No Parking" zone and city bus stop to let passengers out to see the surf and sea turtles.

This is next to the intersection (makai side) of Kamehameha Highway and Pohakuloa Way. Honolulu police officers seem to never issue citations to these violators, even though patrol cars and officer-owned cars with blue lights are often in the vicinity. Why aren't citations given? I presume tickets are not being given because the same commercial operators park there day after day.

**Answer:** Officers from the Honolulu Police Department's Wahiawa station "do enforce 'no parking' signs along public property on Kamehameha Highway," said Maj. Michael Thomas.

The question is whether the vehicles you see are parked on public or private property.

"We do cite those parked on 'no parking' areas on public property," Thomas emphasized. In that area of Kamehameha Highway, that basically would be from the bus stop on, he said.

He also said officers issue "tons of parking citations" especially during the winter high-surf season, because of the danger posed by illegal parking.



## KOKUA LINE

*June Watanabe*

### More on turtles

Federal officials are hoping to implement an outreach project to educate the public on how to appreciate the Hawaiian sea turtles (honu) — but only from a distance.

We weren't able to reach federal wildlife officials for comment about a reader's complaint that too many people harass sea turtles by getting too close to them (Kokua Line, June 5).

In that column, noted honu authority George Balazs said he believes most casual contact between humans and the Hawaiian sea turtles these days is not harmful and, in his eyes, often beneficial to both.

State wildlife enforcement officials agreed that most human contact did not appear to be harmful and that action was taken only for "egregious" activity. But they also said they did not want people to think they should touch or play with the turtles.

Gene Hester, resident agent in charge of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's office of law enforcement in Hawaii, recently contacted Kokua Line to say that the "legal response" to the question of how people are supposed to deal with turtles is that they are not to touch or handle them.

Federal criminal sanctions for harming or harassing the turtles, like state sanctions, are usually applied only "when something egregious happens to a turtle," he acknowledged.

However, observing that, Hester said federal authorities do "not condone behavior such as feeding turtles nor making physical contact in any way with them."

Instead, federal officials "encourage people to appreciate the wildlife and observe them from a distance."

To that end, he said both his office and the law enforcement division of the National Marine Fisheries Service "are currently pursuing options of expanded outreach that would educate the public to appreciate turtles and observe them from a distance."

However, nothing definite has been set up yet.

"We firmly believe that physical contact with the turtles is inappropriate behavior as intended by the law, and that ultimately it may be a child that loses a finger or is otherwise injured through petting or feeding of a turtle," Hester said.

Write to "Kokua Line" at  
Honolulu Star-Bulletin,  
7 Waterfront Plaza, Suite 210,  
500 Ala Moana, Honolulu  
96813; call 529-4773;  
fax 529-4750; or e-mail  
[kokualine@starbulletin.com](mailto:kokualine@starbulletin.com)

162

# Sea turtles can tolerate casual contact



**KOKUA LINE**

*June Watanabe*

**Question:** Since returning to the islands two years ago, I have been dismayed to find how often the turtles resting on the beaches are bothered by human contact. I have visited beaches on the North Shore and on the Big Island, and the situation is the same. The turtles are allowed little privacy and peace. They are constantly being closely surrounded to be photographed and touched. Even if there are signs to leave the turtles alone, they are ignored. Is there any beach patrol to keep an eye on these creatures? It seems as if this situation is tolerated to please the tourists. However, it is at the expense of the world's remaining turtles.

**Answer:** It obviously will surprise you to learn that, at least as far as Hawaiian green sea turtles are concerned, casual human contact, in most instances, is not considered bad.

This assessment comes from marine researcher George Balazs, a well-respected authority on the Hawaiian "honu."

Under state and federal acts, all sea turtles are protected from harm and harassment. In some areas, such as Florida, sea turtles are listed as "endangered," or facing extinction; in Hawaii, the green turtles — the species most people see — are categorized as "threatened," a step below the endangered stage.

He's studied and tracked Hawaiian turtles for more than 30 years, during which time they have gone from near extinction to being "very numerous throughout the Hawaiian Islands. There is hardly a place where turtles can't be seen," he said.

Balazs said he has no doubt that you are sincere in your concern for the well-being of the turtles. But, in his estimation — and emphasizing that he was speaking personally as a professional researcher and not officially on behalf of any agency — the Hawaiian sea turtles have become accustomed to living among humans.

"The turtles are in no way bothered by casual human contact," he said.

Having spent a good part of his life in the field studying and observing them, Balazs said he can "comfortably estimate that 99 percent" of some people's perception of harm or harassment of the turtles have "no basis in scientific fact."

But what constitutes harm or harassment? State officials we contacted agree that harm or harassment usually would involve something egregious, more than people taking photos or even getting close to the turtles.

Still, enforcement officials are hesitant to have people invade a turtle's space.

"We encourage people to appreciate the wildlife and observe them from a distance," said Francis Oishi, acting administrator of the state Department of Land and Natural Resources Aquatics Division. "That's the best way to enjoy those animals."

But first, if you witness someone killing, harming or harassing sea turtles, you are advised to call any of the following law enforcement agencies:

>> State Division of Conservation & Resources Enforcement, 587-0077.

>> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 861-8525.

>> The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's fisheries law enforcement office, 541-2727 or 853-1964.

For illegal tour bus or vehicle parking, or other traffic violations that may be related to turtle-watching on the North Shore or elsewhere on Oahu, you are advised to call police at 911 and say it is a nonemergency.

If you find a sick, injured, or dead turtle, call 983-5730 to find out what to do regarding veterinary treatment or removal for scientific study.

This information was provided by Balazs, leader of the National Marine Fisheries Services Marine Turtle Research Project in Hawaii.

He said the turtles knowingly come to beaches and coastal waters already occupied by people — sometimes a great many people — and seem "very willing" to share space with them.

Over the three decades that he's observed them, the turtles' behaviors have changed from "outright mortal fear of humans hunting and killing them, to one of acceptance, curiosity (and) seeming 'friendship.'"

In turn, in his professional opinion, "the vast majority of people" demonstrate good manners that do not constitute harm or harassment. That's even if they may get close to them and take numerous photographs, he said.

Balazs does acknowledge that, sometimes, some people do exhibit "bad manners." But even then, he said their actions still do not necessarily constitute harm or harassment to the turtles.

Gary Moniz, administrator of the state Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement, agrees that most people could not be accused of harming or harassing the turtles.

Balazs "clearly outlines the basic threshold, which is that the everyday basic, simple small things really don't affect the turtles," Moniz said. "The issue of what actually constitutes harassment comes down to something real overt: trapping them with a net, spearing them or tying them up. We're talking about more than just a bump or a touch or a pat on the head, etc."

Moniz said prosecution historically has been handled on a case-by-case basis and based on much consultation with biolo-

gists as to "what these animals tolerate and what they don't tolerate."

It's rare that law enforcement officials run across people who physically do harm the turtles — "netting them, tying them, throwing them in a boat, shooting them, spearing, beating with a stick," he said.

"Netting probably happens more than any other type of behavior," Moniz said. But "most people know to release them from the net, and if they do that, that's fine."

Like Balazs, Moniz said he does not believe that most peoples' encounters with the turtles are malicious.

But he said he's hesitant to say that because "I don't want to give the impression that you can play with turtles. It's best to leave them alone, not to feed them, etc."

But he also doesn't want to give the message that "if you bump a turtle that you're going to go to jail."

Oishi's advice is "to appreciate them, but also to respect them."

We were not successful in reaching the pertinent federal law enforcement officials for comment. But, in Balazs's eyes, he believes "people's hearts are touched by the magnificence of these ocean creatures viewed up close and personal in the wild.

"There is no doubt about this whatsoever in my mind, and especially when youngsters are involved. The positive effects favorable to conservation are lasting, perhaps for a lifetime."

Got a question or complaint? Call 529-4773, fax 529-4750 or write to "Kokua Line," Honolulu Star-Bulletin, 7 Waterfront Plaza, Suite 210, Honolulu 96813. As many as possible will be answered. Send e-mail to [kokualine@starbulletin.com](mailto:kokualine@starbulletin.com)

WAIANUANA

e: Tue, 05 May 2009 06:45:02 -1000  
om: "Stacy [Kubis] Hargrove" <stacy.hargrove@noaa.gov>  
To: George H. Balazs <gbalazs@honlab.nmfs.hawaii.edu>  
Subject: Re: Interesting seal-turtle interaction (fwd)

we walked to the left about 100 m - there's a nice "beach shack" someone built for shade out of tree limbs and palm fronds. the turtles were everywhere! it was the far end of Au street just before Crozier Loop.  
bummer about the Laniakea turtles. Probably going to be a low year considering the record breaking year last year.

George H. Balazs wrote:  
> got it. know where that's at. Wed pm and Thursday Marc and I will be on North  
> Shore- will take a look over there. Purpose is to get Marc's MK10 back from  
> L4. Nobody went anywhere- none of Laniakea crowd gone to breed.

1 Tue, 5 May 2009, Stacy [Kubis] Hargrove wrote:

I'm pretty sure it was Au Street - beach access where a storm drain pipe is exposed in the ocean right at the public crossover. No photo...it happened so fast!

George H. Balazs wrote:

> Where were you-- have a street name? Not at Ali'i?

>

>

> On Mon, 4 May 2009, Stacy.Hargrove@noaa.gov wrote:

>

> > We were on the north shore yesterday - Waialua area beaches and there  
> > were turtles everywhere in knee deep water. I saw something I had never  
> > seen before - a small turtle leaped out of the water, it was bizarre.  
> > Maybe a bigger turtle bumped into it or was trying to bite it...i saw  
> > the entire carapace come out of the water at a 45+ degree angle and the  
> > right front flipper went vertical - almost like it got tipped on its  
> > side. No baskers...just lots of turtles foraging (butts up in the air  
> > and rear flippers sticking out of the water).

>

>

On Mon, 20 Apr 2009, David\_Zabriskie@fws.gov wrote:

> George,  
 > Glad to have you back from Japan. My volunteers have been  
 > noticing some interesting seal-turtle interactions lately. On  
 > several  
 > different occasions they have seen a medium sized seal(s) go

> noticeably  
 > towards a turtle and push the turtle away from the island or just  
 > push  
 > them around in circles. Is this common behavior or something to  
 > really  
 > look for and document. I am not sure if you remember back in  
 > December  
 > the  
 > large storm that washed away East beach. That beach has still not  
 > rebuilt  
 > and is daily awash. There have been many turtles hauled up on the  
 > little  
 > bit of sand available. Would they be competing for beach? Thanks for  
 > any  
 > insight you can provide as I have not seen this behavior since I  
 >, have  
 > seen  
 > here.